

REMARKS

Claims 47-79 are all the claims pending in the application. Previously claims 1-46 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

- The Examiner rejected claims 49, 50, 56, 57, 67, 68, 72, and 76, under §102(a) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,898,388 to Hofmann et al. (hereinafter Hofmann). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Hofmann fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 49 sets forth a rolling bearing with sensor comprising: an inner ring; an outer ring; a plurality of rolling elements; and a sensor having a detecting part and a circuit part connected to the detecting part, wherein the detecting part and the circuit part are directly attached to the rolling bearing, and wherein the detecting part and the circuit part are directly attached to at least one of the inner and outer rings along a circumferential direction thereof.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 49, Hofmann discloses a speed sensor 7 and microchip 8 that are disposed on a sealing disk 5; they are not directly attached to at least one of the inner and outer rings 1, 2. Accordingly, Hofmann fails to disclose a detecting part and a circuit part that are directly attached to at least one of an inner and an outer ring of a rolling bearing, as set forth in claim 49.

For at least the above reasons, Hofman fails to anticipate claim 49. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate dependent claim 56.

Claim 50 sets forth a rolling bearing with sensor, comprising: an inner ring; an outer ring; a plurality of rolling elements; and a sensor having a detecting part and a circuit part connected to the detecting part, wherein the detecting part and the circuit part are directly attached to the rolling bearing, and wherein at least one of the detecting part and the circuit part is attached to an end face of at least one of the inner and outer rings.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 50, Hofmann discloses a speed sensor 7 and microchip 8 are disposed on sealing disk 5; they are not attached to an end face of at least one of

the inner and outer rings. Moreover, the sealing disk 5 is attached to the inner circumferential surface of the outer ring 1; it is not attached to an end face thereof. Accordingly, Hofmann fails to disclose a detecting part and a circuit part that are directly attached to an end face of at least one of the inner and outer rings, as set forth in claim 50.

For at least the above reasons, Hofmann fails to anticipate claim 50. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate dependent claims 57, 68, 72, and 76.

With respect to claim 67, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection appears to be in error. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that claim 67 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. See the Office Action at page 3, 3rd last paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove claim 67 from this statement of the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

- The Examiner rejected claim 51 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofmann in view of official notice of common knowledge in the art. Applicants respectively traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all the elements as set forth and arranged in the claim.

As noted above, Hofmann is deficient. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide a cover. However, provision of a cover does not provide motivation for locating a detecting part and a circuit part directly on an end face of an inner or outer ring of the rolling bearing, as set forth in claim 51. Accordingly, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to modify Hofmann as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still not teach or suggest all the elements as set forth in claim 51.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 63, 65, 67, 71, and 75, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

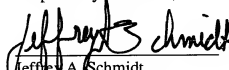
Lastly, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 47-48, 52-55, 58-62, 64, 66, 69-70, 73, 74, and 77-79, are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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